

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-22 (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of processing transactions carried out over a network between account holders and participating entities ~~according to claim 19, said method comprising the steps of:~~

(a) receiving a purchase request of a buyer from a participating entity indicating that the buyer desires to carry out a transaction with the entity, said transaction including the buyer purchasing one or more selected items;

(b) authenticating the buyer as an account holder;

(c) establishing transaction fulfillment data, said transaction fulfillment data indicating a delivery destination for the selected items, wherein establishing the transaction fulfillment data includes: using a previously obtained destination as the delivery destination for the selected items when an alternate destination is not obtained;

(d) communicating the transaction fulfillment data to the participating entity;

(e) receiving transaction details from the participating entity, said transaction details including a cost for the selected items;

(f) authorizing completion of the transaction and establishing an authorization code therefor; and,

(g) communicating the authorization code for the transaction to the participating entity.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein establishing the fulfillment data further includes:

obtaining an alternate destination from the buyer, said alternate destination being different from the previously obtained destination;

transmitting a security question to the buyer;

receiving a response to the security question from the buyer; and,

using the alternate destination as the delivery destination for the selected items when the response to the security question is accurate.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of processing transactions carried out over a network between account holders and participating entities ~~according to claim 19, said method comprising the steps of:~~

(a) receiving a purchase request of a buyer from a participating entity indicating that the buyer desires to carry out a transaction with the entity, said transaction including the buyer purchasing one or more selected items;

(b) authenticating the buyer as an account holder;

(c) establishing transaction fulfillment data, said transaction fulfillment data indicating a delivery destination for the selected items, wherein the delivery destination is a non-identifying destination such that anonymity of the buyer is maintained with respect to the participating merchant entity;

(d) communicating the transaction fulfillment data to the participating entity;

(e) receiving transaction details from the participating entity, said transaction details including a cost for the selected items;

(f) authorizing completion of the transaction and establishing an authorization code therefor; and,

(g) communicating the authorization code for the transaction to the participating entity.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of processing transactions carried out over a network between account holders and participating entities ~~according to claim 19, said method comprising the steps of:~~

(a) ~~wherein said method further includes obtaining restriction instructions from account holders;~~

(b) receiving a purchase request of a buyer from a participating entity indicating that the buyer desires to carry out a transaction with the entity, said transaction including the buyer purchasing one or more selected items;

(c) authenticating the buyer as an account holder;

(d) receiving transaction details from the participating entity, said transaction details including one or more terms for the purchase;

(e) authorizing completion of the transaction and establishing an authorization code therefor; and,

(f) communicating the authorization code for the transaction to the participating entity.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein said restriction instructions block authorizing the completion of transactions with participating ~~merchants~~ entities identified in the restriction instructions.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein said restriction instructions block authorizing the completion of recurring transactions which are not separately participated in by the account holder from whom the restriction instructions were obtained.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~19~~²⁶, wherein authorizing completion of the transaction includes comparing ~~the~~ a cost of the selected items to a threshold such that if the cost is less than or equal to the threshold authorization is given and if the cost is greater than the threshold authorization is denied.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein the threshold represents an amount selected from a group consisting of funds on deposit for the account holder, ~~and credit available to the account holder, and a~~ value set via the obtained restriction instructions.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of processing transactions carried out over a network between account holders and participating entities according to claim 19, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a purchase request of a buyer from a participating entity indicating that the buyer desires to carry out a transaction with the entity, said transaction including the buyer purchasing one or more selected items;

(b) authenticating the buyer as an account holder;

(c) receiving transaction details from the participating entity, said transaction details including a cost for the purchase;

(d) authorizing completion of the transaction and establishing an authorization code therefor, wherein authorizing completion of the transaction and establishing an authorization code therefor includes:

transmitting the transaction details of the authenticated account holder directly to a funding source which determines if the account holder has one of sufficient funds on deposit with the funding source or sufficient credit available through the funding source to cover the cost of the ~~selected items~~ purchase; and,

receiving the authorization code from the funding source;

and,

(e) communicating the authorization code for the transaction to the participating entity.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of processing transactions carried out over a network between account holders and participating entities ~~according to claim 19, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:~~

(a) receiving a request indicating that a buyer desires to carry out a transaction with a participating entity, said transaction including the buyer purchasing one or more selected items;

(b) authenticating the buyer as an account holder;

(c) receiving transaction details including one or more terms for the purchasing the selected items;

(d) authorizing completion of the transaction and establishing an authorization code therefor;

(e) communicating the authorization code for the transaction to the participating merchant;

(f) obtaining settlement information from the participating merchant entity, said settlement information including the authorization code and transaction details for the completed transaction;

(ig) confirming that the transaction details corresponding to the authorization code received with the settlement information are within a desired tolerance; and,

(jh) communicating the confirmed settlement information ~~directly to a~~ funding source ~~which to effect reimburses~~ reimbursement of the participating ~~merchant entity for the cost of the selected item and bills~~ billing of the account holder.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 32, wherein obtaining the settlement information includes automatically capturing the settlement information from the participating ~~merchant entity~~ upon an indication of delivery of the selected items.

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34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1932, wherein step (b) precedes step (a).

35. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1932, wherein authenticating the buyer as an account holder includes:

synchronizing a token with a periodically changing non-predictable code;
providing the account holder with the token, said token displaying the periodically changing non-predictable code;

receiving a code communicated by the buyer; and,
comparing the received code with the periodically changing non-predictable code to authenticate the buyer as the account holder when the received code matches the periodically changing non-predictable code.

36. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the transactions are at least partially carried out over a public network.

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37. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the transactions are at least partially carried out over a public network.

38. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the transactions are at least partially carried out over a public network.

39. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the transactions are at least partially carried out over a public network.

40. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the transactions are at least partially carried out over a public network.
